



# A PROCLAMATION

*Against Slanderers and Leefing-makers.*



*J*AMES, by the Grace of GOD, King of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; To our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren Heralds, Macers of Our Privy Council, Pursevants, and Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly, and severally, specially constitute, Greeting: Whereas We are Informed That divers Ministers, and others, to promote their Seditious designs, Do take upon them in Sermons, and other Discourses, To Allarm the People, and to raise dislike of Our Person and Government in their Hearts, Defaming and Slandering Our Designs, or at least, meddling in Our Affairs; All which are highly punishable, and the Punishments Declared by Our Laws and Acts of Parliament; Especially by the seventh Act of the eighth Parl. of King James the Sixth, Our Royal Grand-Father, (of ever Blessed Memory) Cap. 134. Intituled, *Against Slanderers of the King, His Progenitors, Estate and Realm*; And of which, in so far as relates to these Affaires, The Tenor follows. Forasmuch as it is understood to Our Sovereign Lord, and His Three Estates Assembled in this present Parliament, What great harm and inconvenient has fallen in this Realm, chiefly since the beginning of the Civil Troubles, occurred in the time of His Highness minority, through the wicked and licentious, publick and private Speeches, and untrue Calumnies of divers His Subjects, to the Disdain, Contempt and Reproach of His Majesty, His Council and Proceedings, and to the dishonour and prejudice of His Highness, His Parents, Progenitors and Estate: Stirring up His Highness Subjects thereby to misliking, Sedition, Unquietness, and to cast off their due obedience to His Majesty, to their evident peril, tinsel and destruction; His Highness continuing always in Love and Clemency toward all His good Subjects, and most willing to seek the safety and preservation of them all; Which wilfully, needlessly, and upon plain malice, after His Highness Mercy and Pardon, oft-times afore granted, has procured themselves by their Treasonable Deeds, to be cut off as corrupt members of this Common-wealth: Therefore it is Statute and Ordained by Our Sovereign Lord, and His three Estates in this present Parliament, That none of His Subjects (of whatsoever Function, Degree, or Quality in time coming) shall presume to take upon hand, privately, or publicly in Sermons, Declarations, or familiar Conferences, to utter any false, Slandorous or untrue Speeches, to the disdain, reproach and contempt of His Majesty, His Council and Proceedings; or to the dishonour, hurt or prejudice of His Highness, His Parents and Progenitors, or to meddle in the Affairs of His Highness, and His Estate present, bygone, and in time coming, under the pains contained in the Acts of Parliament, against makers and tellers of Leefings: Certifying them that shall be tried Contraveeners thereof, or that bear sick slanderous Speeches, and reports not the same with diligence, the said pains shall be executed against them with all rigor, in example of others. And to the end that so necessary and laudable a Law may receive due and punctual obedience; We therefore, with Advice of Our Privy Council, Do hereby Declare, That the Contraveeners hereof any manner of way, shall be exemplarily punished with all rigor, conform to the prescript of the said Statute in all points. And that Our Royal Pleasure in the Premises may be made publick and known, Our Will is, And We Charge you strictly and Command, That incontinent, these our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat Cross of Edinburgh, and all other Mercat Crosses of the head Burghs of the Shires of this Kingdom, And there, in Our Name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make publication of Our Royal Pleasure in the Premises, that all Our Leidges may have notice thereof, and give obedience thereto, as they will be answerable at their highest peril.

Given under Our Signet at Edinburgh, the seventeenth day of June, One Thousand six hundred eighty six Tears. And of Our Reign the second Year.

*Per actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.*

COLIN MCKENZIE, *Clk. Sti. Concilii.*

**G O D Save the K I N G.**

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